Serial No. 10/661,567 Filed: September 15, 2003 Page 16 of 21 Examiner: Brittany M, Martinez Group Art Unit: 1754

## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

- (Canceled)
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 62-94 wherein the organic waste is reduced after it is dried.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 62-94 wherein the organic waste is reduced before it is dried.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6294 further-comprising wherein forming a-the mixture comprises by mixing the pieces with water-and a biodegradable binder.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 65-94 further comprising forming the mixture into a shape.
  - 67. (Canceled)
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 67-94 wherein the drying further comprises further-comprising-heating the step of heating the shaped-mixture.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 67-58 further comprising removing liquid water from the mixture.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 69 wherein the liquid water is re-used
  in a subsequent process for producing a <u>unitary biodegradable</u> solid.
- 71. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 67-68 further comprising capturing water vapor emitted while drying the shaped mixture.

Serial No. 10/661,567 Filed: September 15, 2003 Examiner: Brittany M. Martinez Group Art Unit: 1754

Page 17 of 21

- (Previously Presented) The process of claim 71 further comprising converting the captured water vapor to liquid water.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 72 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a unitary biodegradable solid.
- 74. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 65-94 wherein the water or biodegradable binder in the mixture is obtained from the raw organic waste.
- (Previously Presented) The process of claim 74 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.
- (Currently Amended) The process of claim 75 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.
- (Previously Presented) The process of claim 65 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.
- (Previously Presented) The process of claim 77 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.
- (New) A process for producing a biodegradable solid of organic waste comprising:

reducing raw organic waste to pieces;

mixing the pieces with a biodegradable binder to form a mixture; and

forming a unitary biodegradable solid from the mixture by drying the mixture wherein the reduced raw organic waste pieces are converted to a unitary biodegradable solid.

 (New) The process of claim 94 wherein the drying comprises drying the mixture to a moisture content at which it is free of odors caused by microbial activity.